

15 minutes. Upon removal from the incubator, the plates were placed on the vortex mixer with the microtiter adapter head and vortexed on the #2 setting for one minute. 80 μ l of the lysate was removed and added to the bDNA wells containing the Capture Hybridization Buffer, and pipetted up and down to mix. The plates were incubated at 53°C for at least 16 hours.

On the next day, the second part of the bDNA kit protocol was followed. Specifically, the plates were removed from the incubator and placed on the bench to cool for 10 minutes. The volumes of additions needed were calculated based upon information provided by the manufacturer. An Amplifier Working Solution was prepared by making a 1:100 dilution of the Amplifier Concentrate (20 fm/ μ l) in AL Hybridization Buffer. The hybridization mixture was removed from the plates and washed twice with Wash A. 50 μ l of Amplifier Working Solution was added to each well and the wells were incubated at 53°C for 30 minutes. The plates were then removed from the incubator and allowed to cool for 10 minutes. The Label Probe Working Solution was prepared by making a 1:100 dilution of Label Concentrate (40 pmoles/ μ l) in AL Hybridization Buffer. After the 10-minute cool-down period, the amplifier hybridization mixture was removed and the plates were washed twice with Wash A. 50 μ l of Label Probe Working Solution was added to each well and the wells were incubated at 53°C for 15 minutes. After cooling for 10 minutes, the Substrate was warmed to room temperature. Upon addition of 3 μ l of Substrate Enhancer to each ml of Substrate needed for the assay, the plates were allowed to cool for 10 minutes, the label hybridization mixture was removed, and the plates were washed twice with Wash A and three times with Wash D. 50 μ l of the Substrate Solution with Enhancer was added to each well. The plates were incubated for 30 minutes at 37°C and RLU was read in an appropriate luminometer.

The replicates were averaged and the coefficient of variation was determined. The measure of activity of the fold increase over the negative control (Protein 32/HEPES buffer described above) value was indicated by chemiluminescence units (RLU). The results are considered positive if the PRO polypeptide exhibits at least a two-fold value over the negative buffer control. Negative control = 1.00 RLU at 1.00% dilution. Positive control = 8.39 RLU at 1.00% dilution.

The following PRO polypeptides tested positive in this assay: PRO474.

EXAMPLE 136: Induction of Pancreatic β -Cell Precursor Differentiation (Assay 89)

This assay shows that certain polypeptides of the invention act to induce differentiation of pancreatic β -cell precursor cells into mature pancreatic β -cells and, therefore, are useful for treating various insulin deficient states in mammals, including diabetes mellitus. The assay is performed as follows. The assay uses a primary culture of mouse fetal pancreatic cells and the primary readout is an alteration in the expression of markers that represent either β -cell precursors or mature β -cells. Marker expression is measured by real time quantitative PCR (RTQ-PCR); wherein the marker being evaluated is insulin.

The pancreata are dissected from E14 embryos (CD1 mice). The pancreata are then digested with collagenase/dispase in F12/DMEM at 37°C for 40 to 60 minutes (collagenase/dispase, 1.37 mg/ml, Boehringer Mannheim, #1097113). The digestion is then neutralized with an equal volume of 5% BSA and the cells are washed once with RPMI1640. At day 1, the cells are seeded into 12-well tissue culture plates (pre-coated with laminin, 20 μ g/ml in PBS, Boehringer Mannheim, #124317). Cells from pancreata from 1-2 embryos are

distributed per well. The culture medium for this primary culture is 14F/1640. At day 2, the media is removed and the attached cells washed with RPMI/1640. Two mls of minimal media are added in addition to the protein to be tested. At day 4, the media is removed and RNA prepared from the cells and marker expression analyzed by real time quantitative RT-PCR. A protein is considered to be active in the assay if it increases the expression of the relevant β -cell marker as compared to untreated controls.

14F/1640 is RPMI1640 (Gibco) plus the following:

group A 1:1000

group B 1:1000

recombinant human insulin 10 μ g/ml

Aprotinin (50 μ g/ml) 1:2000 (Boehringer manheim #981532)

Bovine pituitary extract (BPE) 60 μ g/ml

Gentamycin 100 ng/ml

Group A : (in 10ml PBS)

Transferrin, 100mg (Sigma T2252)

Epidermal Growth Factor, 100 μ g (BRL 100004)

Triiodothyronine, 10 μ l of 5×10^{-6} M (Sigma T5516)

Ethanolamine, 100 μ l of 10^{-1} M (Sigma E0135)

Phosphoethanolamine, 100 μ l of 10^{-1} M (Sigma P0503)

Selenium, 4 μ l of 10^{-1} M (Aesar #12574)

Group C : (in 10ml 100 % ethanol)

Hydrocortisone, 2 μ l of 5×10^{-3} M (Sigma #H0135)

Progesterone, 100 μ l of 1×10^{-3} M (Sigma #P6149)

Forskolin, 500 μ l of 20mM (Calbiochem #344270)

Minimal media:

RPMI 1640 plus transferrin (10 μ g/ml), insulin (1 μ g/ml), gentamycin (100 ng/ml), aprotinin (50 μ g/ml) and BPE (15 μ g/ml).

Defined media:

RPMI 1640 plus transferrin (10 μ g/ml), insulin (1 μ g/ml), gentamycin (100 ng/ml) and aprotinin (50 μ g/ml).

The following polypeptides were positive in this assay: PRO788 and PRO162.

EXAMPLE 137: Stimulation of Endothelial Cell Proliferation (Assay 8)

This assay is designed to determine whether PRO polypeptides of the present invention show the ability to stimulate adrenal cortical capillary endothelial cell (ACE) growth. PRO polypeptides testing positive in this assay would be expected to be useful for the therapeutic treatment of conditions or disorders where angiogenesis would be beneficial including, for example, wound healing, and the like (as would agonists of these PRO polypeptides). Antagonists of the PRO polypeptides testing positive in this assay would be expected to be useful for the therapeutic treatment of cancerous tumors.

Bovine adrenal cortical capillary endothelial (ACE) cells (from primary culture, maximum of 12-14

passages) were plated in 96-well plates at 500 cells/well per 100 microliter. Assay media included low glucose DMEM, 10% calf serum, 2 mM glutamine, and 1X penicillin/streptomycin/fungizone. Control wells included the following: (1) no ACE cells added; (2) ACE cells alone; (3) ACE cells plus VEGF (5 ng/ml); and (4) ACE cells plus FGF (5ng/ml). The control or test sample, (in 100 microliter volumes), was then added to the wells (at dilutions of 1%, 0.1% and 0.01%, respectively). The cell cultures were incubated for 6-7 days at 37°C/5% CO₂. After the incubation, the media in the wells was aspirated, and the cells were washed 1X with PBS. An acid phosphatase reaction mixture (100 microliter; 0.1M sodium acetate, pH 5.5, 0.1% Triton X-100, 10 mM p-nitrophenyl phosphate) was then added to each well. After a 2 hour incubation at 37°C, the reaction was stopped by addition of 10 microliters 1N NaOH. Optical density (OD) was measured on a microplate reader at 405 nm.

The activity of a PRO polypeptide was calculated as the fold increase in proliferation (as determined by the acid phosphatase activity, OD 405 nm) relative to (1) cell only background, and (2) relative to maximum stimulation by VEGF. VEGF (at 3-10 ng/ml) and FGF (at 1-5 ng/ml) were employed as an activity reference for maximum stimulation. Results of the assay were considered "positive" if the observed stimulation was \geq 50% increase over background. VEGF (5 ng/ml) control at 1% dilution gave 1.24 fold stimulation; FGF (5 ng/ml) control at 1% dilution gave 1.46 fold stimulation.

The following PRO polypeptides tested positive in this assay: PRO1075.

EXAMPLE 138: Mouse Mesengial Cell Inhibition Assay (Assay 114)

This assay is designed to determine whether PRO polypeptides of the present invention show the ability to inhibit the proliferation of mouse mesengial cells in culture. PRO polypeptides testing positive in this assay would be expected to be useful for the therapeutic treatment of such diseases or conditions where inhibition of mesengial cell proliferation would be beneficial such as, for example, cystic renal dysplasia, polycystic kidney disease, or other kidney disease associated with abnormal mesengial cell proliferation, renal tumors, and the like.

On day 1, mouse mesengial cells are plated on a 96 well plate in growth medium (a 3:1 mixture of Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium and Ham's F12 medium, 95%; fetal bovine serum, 5%; supplemented with 14mM HEPES) and then are allowed to grow overnight. On day 2, the PRO polypeptide is diluted at 2 different concentrations (1%, 0.1%) in serum-free medium and is added to the cells. The negative control is growth medium without added PRO polypeptide. After the cells are allowed to incubate for 48 hours, 20 μ l of the Cell Titer 96 Aqueous one solution reagent (Promega) is added to each well and the colorimetric reaction is allowed to proceed for 2 hours. The absorbance (OD) is then measured at 490 nm. A positive in the assay is an absorbance reading which is at least 10% above the negative control.

The following PRO polypeptides tested positive in this assay: PRO200 and PRO697.

EXAMPLE 139: Chondrocyte Proliferation Assay (Assay 111)

This assay is designed to determine whether PRO polypeptides of the present invention show the ability to induce the proliferation and/or redifferentiation of chondrocytes in culture. PRO polypeptides testing positive in this assay would be expected to be useful for the therapeutic treatment of various bone and/or cartilage